



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calves Rescued After Falling Through Ice

February 19, 2010 – Waterford, VA – Four calves are alive and well today after falling through a frozen pond in Leesburg Thursday afternoon.

Loudoun County Animal Control received a call shortly after 4:30pm that 5 calves had fallen through a pond at a property in the 20000 block of Gulick Mill Road. The calves were unable to get out of the frigid water and were drowning, with their heads barely sticking out of the water. When Animal Control Officers arrived on the scene, the calves' owner was attempting to rescue them. The Officers sprang into action, using specialized equipment and technical animal rescue skills to pull the animals out of the water.

Deputy Chief Adrienne Burton, Lead Animal Control Officers Mark Stacks and Angela Chan, and Animal Control Officer Claudia Berrio participated in the rescue, with assistance from members of Loudoun County Fire & Rescue and local residents on the scene.

All five of the calves, each approximately a year old and weighing between 600-700 pounds, were pulled from the water. Two of the calves were able to walk to a nearby barn, while the other three had to be transported by trailer as they were too frozen to walk. A large animal veterinarian was called to the scene and performed emergency triage and care for the animals.

One of the calves was pronounced dead on the scene, likely due to fluid in the lungs. The remaining four were treated by the veterinarian. They are doing well and are expected to make a full recovery.

"These animals are alive today thanks to the heroic efforts of everyone involved in this rescue," said Animal Control Director Thomas Koenig. "No one was injured performing the operation and all necessary safety precautions were taken to protect the rescuers, thanks to the training and skill of the officers involved."

Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Department information can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

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